

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
DIVISION OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Tom Gulbransen
Chairperson
CEQ

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: June 17, 2020
TIME: 9:30 am – 12:47pm
LOCATION: ZOOM Video Conference

Due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency and State and Federal bans on large meetings or gatherings and pursuant to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1 202.28 issued on March 12, 2020 suspending the Open Meeting Law, the Suffolk County Planning Commission Meeting will be held electronically via ZOOM until June 20, 2020. Instead of a public meeting open for the public to attend in person, members of the public may Listen to or log into the video conference. The public was encouraged to send in their statements for the public portion to the address above or email to Planning@suffolkcountyny.gov . The Minutes of the meeting will be posted on the Suffolk County Planning Commission website.

PRESENT:

Thomas Gulbransen, Chair
Michael Kaufman, Vice Chair (by phone)
Frank De Rubeis
Hon. Kara Hahn
Constance Kepert
Hon. Al Krupski
Mary Ann Spencer
Andrea Spilka
Larry Swanson

ABSENT:

Rob Carpenter Jr.

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

None

STAFF:

Sarah Lansdale, Director of Planning
Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner
John Corral, Environmental Projects Coordinator
Christine DeSalvo, Principal Office Assistant

GUESTS:

Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services, Suffolk County Department of Parks,
Recreation and Conservation
Christina DeLisi, Suffolk County Legislative Aide for Suffolk County Presiding Officer
Maria Nida, Assistant County Attorney, Suffolk County Department of Law
Peter Scully, Deputy County Executive, Suffolk County
Dorian Dale, Economic Development Sustainability Director, Suffolk County Department of
Economic Development and Planning
Alyssa Turano, Legislative Aide, Hon. Hahn, District 5
Scott DiFiore, Assistant Architect, Suffolk County Department of Public Works
Dennis Cohen, Chief Deputy County Executive, Suffolk County
Robert Whelan, Principal Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works
Eric Naughton, Budget Director, Suffolk County
Lauren McGrath
Bob DeLuca, Group for the East End
Amani Hosein
Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director, Citizens Campaign for the Environment

The following was read into the record at the start of the meeting:

This is the regularly scheduled June 17, 2020 meeting of the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality and for the record; we do have a quorum present.

The notice of the meeting followed the Open Meetings Law as amended by Executive Order 202.1 and updated by Executive Order 202.32 extending the suspensions and conditions of the OML (open meetings law) until June 20, 2020 allowing meetings to take place telephonically or through other similar services. In this instance, we will be using ZOOM and will be recording the entirety of the meeting.

Additionally, we will be following the voting protocol used by the Suffolk County Legislature at its March 17th meeting. All voting on Board Actions and Resolutions will be done via a roll call and we ask that all Board Members clearly state their name when making a motion and clearly state their vote when their name is called.

Roll call taken

Minutes:

Mr. Corral noted that the Governors Executive order requires verbatim transcripts and the staff is working on getting them completed.

Correspondence:

None

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

Housing agreements: No new updates.

Custodial agreements: IR1420 to allow use of Coindre Hall at West Neck Farm County Park "Splashes of Hope Inc." a nonprofit organization who have been under a license agreement with the county since 2009 and would like to enter into a 20 year contract to continue with the County.

IR1494 is to allow use of Blydenburgh Park Historic District at Blydenburgh County Park a not for profit organization that has had a license agreement with the County since 2006 and would like to enter into a 20 year contract to continue their Colonial Life Program at the park.

Project Review:

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

- A. Proposed Suffolk County Introductory Resolution 1413-2020 (IR -1413-2020) – A Charter Law Increasing the Percentage of Sales Tax that is Allocated to the Suffolk County Taxpayers Trust Fund and Decreasing the Percentage of Sales Tax that is Allocated to the Suffolk County Environmental Programs Trust Fund for Three Years

A presentation regarding the project was given at the meeting by Eric Naughton, Budget Director with the Suffolk County Office of Management and Budget. The proposed action (the adoption of Suffolk County Introductory Resolution 1413-2020 followed by voter referendum approval) would result in the temporary reduction (31% percent to 20% in calendar year 2020; 31% to 24% in calendar year 2021; and 31% to 20% in calendar year 2022) of money designated for the acquisition of open space/parkland and farmland development rights in the Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program to allow for an increased percentage of money designated for County wide property tax protection (32% percent to 43 % in calendar year 2020; 32% to 39% in calendar year 2021; and 32% to 43% in calendar year 2022).

The proposed action also includes a provision that if the Capital Budgets in 2021, 2022 and 2023, do not include funding for purchases of farmland development rights, open space, wetlands, woodlands, pine barrens, and other lands which are suitable only for passive, recreational use, land for use as hamlet greens, hamlet parks, pocket parks (with the effect of providing public spaces that reinforce community livability by enhancing the pedestrian-friendly nature of communities, including uses for outdoor activities, playgrounds, and other public gathering purposes), active parkland, active recreation, historic and/or cultural park uses permitted pursuant to §C12-2(A)(2)(a) of the Suffolk County Charter, equal to the amount of funds reduced the preceding year in the environmental protection component of the Drinking Water Protection Program a transfer must be made back to Suffolk County Environmental Programs Trust Fund of the Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program.

The proposed action also includes a provision that if serial bonds are not authorized by the Suffolk County Legislature in the amounts contained in Capital Budgets for 2021, 2022 or 2023 in either 2021, 2022 or 2023 for purchases set forth above, a transfer shall be made by December 31st of the applicable year from the Suffolk County Taxpayers Trust Fund to the Suffolk County Environmental Programs Trust Fund in an amount equal to the difference between the amount that would otherwise have been allocated and dedicated to the Suffolk County. This proposed local law cannot take effect unless approved by voter referendum.

A motion was made by Mr. De Rubeis to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman. Motion carried.

B. Proposed Suffolk County Introductory Resolution 1414-2020 (IR -1414-2020) – A Charter Law to Transfer Excess Funds in the Sewer Assessment Stabilization Reserve Fund to the Suffolk County Taxpayers Trust Fund and to Eliminate the Requirement that Interfund Transfers Be Made from the General Fund to the Sewer Assessment Stabilization Fund

Eric Naughton, Budget Director with the Suffolk County Office of Management and Budget and John Corral, Environmental Projects Coordinator and Staff to the CEQ gave a presentation regarding IR1414-2020.

The proposed action (the adoption of Suffolk County Introductory Resolution 1414-2020

followed by voter referendum approval) would result in the reduction in the amount of excess funds in the Sewer Assessment Stabilization Reserve (ASRF) to allow for an increase in funds designated for County-wide property tax protection.

The ASRF falls under the sewer taxpayer protection component of the Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program. If revenues deposited into the ASRF exceed the required payments for sewer district tax stabilization, the surplus results in excess funds in the ASRF. The excess funds in the ASRF are required to be spent pursuant to Section C-12.2.D of the Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program. As indicated in the EAF's analysis, based on the requirements of how the excess funds in the ASRF are required to be spent, the reduction of excess funds in the ASRF that will result from the proposed action will not necessitate a reduction in funds spent on sewer infrastructure spending but will result in a reduction in the amount of excess funds being carried over annually as fund balance in the excess ASRF fund. This proposed local law cannot take effect unless approved by voter referendum.

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Mr. De Rubeis. Motion carried.

C. Proposed Construction of a Dune Crossover in Davis Park, CP 5385, Town of Brookhaven

A presentation regarding the proposed construction of a dune crossover at Davis Park, CP 5385, Town of Brookhaven, was given at the meeting by Robert Whelan, Principal Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works. The proposed project involves construction of a new public crossover to traverse a newly constructed dune to allow access to the ocean beach from Donella Walk in Davis Park. The newly constructed dune was the result of the Fire Island Inlet to Moriches Inlet Stabilization Project (FIMI) project which was done to provide protection to the Long Island mainland and Fire Island by reducing the potential for barrier island breaching and overwash during significant storm events. During the FIMI project, Donella Walk was the only walk in Davis Park that was not slated for a crossover because it did not extend to the beach due to private property issues, however during the FIMI Real Estate acquisition process a parcel that hindered the construction of the walk was acquired by the County making the construction of the walk possible. The proposed crossover at Donella Walk will protect the dune from unauthorized pedestrian crossing. The proposed crossover structure design was patterned after the typical design used by the United States Army Core of Engineers for crossover walks in the FIMI project.

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spilka Motion carried.

Project Review:

Recommendations for LADS Report:

Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table May 19, 2020 and

June 9, 2020

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept the staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table May 19, 2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. De Rubeis. Motion carried.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept the staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table June 9, 2020. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spilka. Motion carried.

CAC Concerns:

No CAC concerns or comments were raised.

Other Business:

None

The regular CEQ Meeting Adjourned